activity these days and it becomes much more serious during the entrance tests for admission to medical and engineering colleges;

(b) whether it is also a fact that everything from impersonation to paper leaking to cheating is used to get that coveted seat in a prestigious institute; and

(c) if so, the steps Government proposes to take to check the menance of hi-tech cheating?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) Instances of examination related malpractices do come to light from time to time.

(c) The bodies conducting examinations (e.g. Universities, Board of Secondary Education, etc.) take steps to curb examination - related malpractices.

Recognition of a State university

370. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that during November, 2007, Delhi High Court has ruled that recognition of the University Grants Commission is not a pre-condition for a State Government to set up a university;

(b) if so, whether such a situation would not result in indiscriminate setting up of universities without simultaneously conforming to the laid-down standards of infrastructure, curriculum, eligibility criteria, faculty's academic profile, etc. thereby compromising the quality of education; and

(c) the steps taken for maintaining the quality of instructions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMTI D. PURANDESWARI):

(a) Yes, the Hon'ble Delhi High Court *vide* its judgement dated 2nd July, 2007 (WP No. 18188 of 2006) has held that there is no provision either in the University Grants Commission (UGC) Act or in the Regulation, which require a recognition/approval of the UGC before a University is regarded as one under Section 2 (f) of the UGC Act.

(b) As per provision of the UGC Act, 1956, a "University" means a university established or incorporated under a Central Act, a Provincial Act or a State Act. Further, the Central Government may, on the advice of the Commission, declare by notification in the offical Gazette, that any institutions for higher education, other than a university shall be deemed to be a university for the purpose of the UGC Act.

(c) The UGC has issued Regulation on minimum standard of instructions for the grant of First/Master Degree, 2003.

Reforms in Madarsa education

371. SHRI P.R. RAJAN: Will the Minsiter of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is working on any concrate measures to reform the madarsa education; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) and (b) Government is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme known as Area Intensive and Madarsa Modernization Programme (AIMMP) under which Madarsas which volunteer to introducde modern subjects, in addition to their traditional curriculum, are provided financial assistance for the expenditure on salary of teachers to teach modern subjects, for science-maths kits and for book banks. The financial assistance is given through the respective State Governments.

Setting up of village courts

372. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has announced that 7,000 village courts would be set up in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the present status thereof especially in Andhra Pradesh;

(c) what steps Government would take to man these courts; and

(d) the present status of courts in each and every village in the country especially in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) and (b) A Bill for establishing Gram Nyayalayas is pending before Rajya Sabha. The State Governments will be consulted before bringing into force the provisions of this enactment. It is proposed to establish one or more Gram Nyayalayas for every Panchayat at intermediate level or a group of contiguous Panchayats at intermediate level in a district.

(c) Presiding officers to these courts will be appointed by the concerned State Governments in consultation with the respective High Courts.

(d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Funds for modernisation of courts

†373. SHRI JAI PARKASH AGGARWAL: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of funds allocated for the modernization of lower courts and High Courts/ Supreme Court and also their structural expansion in the country during the last Five Years Plan and the current Five Year Plan;

(b) whether these funds are sufficient; and

(c) if not, whether Government proposes to raise the amount of this fund for the current Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) to (c) An outlay of Rs. 700 crore was provided in theTenth Five Year Plan for modernization of all the courts including, computerization of the High Courts and the city courts, development of infrastructure facilities for the judiciary and the construction of High Courts, in the current

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.